



WSSP Activities in the Balkans

REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

Adequate and Qualitative Education for Young People Continues in Spite of COVID-19

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

Quality school and university education (SDG4) is a major activity for building back better from the Corona virus and continues working to enable teaching students, teachers, and parents about WASH (water, sanitation & hygiene; SDG6) in an interactive and playful way. The pandemic created the largest disruption of educational systems affecting nearly 1.6 billion students in more than 200 countries. Closure of schools and institutions have impacted more than 94% of the world's student population*. Based on this, innovative and adapted educational tools and methods have been used to reach the targets of a project on education on WASH. For example, the developed online platform "Water Classroom" teaches students simple methods for water quality assessment and shows the importance of clean water and sanitation management regionally and worldwide. In order to achieve environmental justice, joint awareness actions among partnership involvement (SDG17) is needed. The session will present the results on implemented activities in the Balkan countries where

relevant activities such as water and sanitation and menstrual hygiene management can teach children, teachers, and relevant stakeholders (SDG5) about the topic regardless of the pandemic situation.

Covid-19 Sustainable Recovery - Proper Handwashing, Water availability, Cleaning and disinfection, Waste management, Physical distancing, etc. are essential for successful reopening of schools.**

Bibliography:

[*The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education: international evidence from the Responses to Educational Disruption Survey \(REDS\) - UNESCO Digital Library](#)

**https://winsnetwork.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/10%20WinS%20Actions%20Covid-19_ENGLISH_2020-06.pdf

Session objectives and expected outcomes

It is shown how to promote and build capacity on Water and Sanitation Safety Planning in terms of a developed Compendium, an online learning platform “Water Classroom” and further on-going educational activities in the Balkan region.

All the results concerning education on the topic of WASH and MHM (Menstrual Health Management) in the Balkan region will be presented, demonstrating the needs and opportunities to connect with local CSOs, women groups, decision makers, water supply and sanitation companies, public authorities, and schools/knowledge institutions in peri urban and rural areas in the region. All the activities are based on WASH and WHO programmes related to improvement of the water and sanitation facilities, especially in schools. The joint achievements of the project and the experience gathered by WECF and its partners’ network will be presented.

The possibility of exchanging experiences and programmes among the partners will be shared, considering that each of the countries are at different level of support and achievement of WASH goals while following international agreements and national regulations.

Project results: New edition of the WSSP-Compendium, online educational platform “Water Classroom” presented in some of the countries, nitrate water sampling as a school activity, networking

Organizers

Lead organizers: Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF e.V. Germany)

Contributors: Journalists for Human Rights (JHR, North Macedonia), Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (EASD, Serbia), Woman in Development (WiD, Albania), Milieukontakt Albania (MiA, Albania), Aquademica (Romania)

Focal points: Education, youth, WASH, water, sanitation, hygiene, health, menstruation, networking

E-Mail: bistra.mihaylova@wecf.org, verena.demmelbauer@wecf.org

Agenda and Structure

Thursday, 7 April 2022 (13:15- 14:45 CET)

13.15	Side event opening & welcoming remarks (WECF)
13:20	Implemented WSSP (water & sanitation safety planning) educational activities in Albania, North Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia
13:45	Round of discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Mihail Kochubovski (Institute for Public Health, North Macedonia): <i>Covid-19 and equitable access to WASH in schools</i>• Dr. Andjelka Mihajlov (Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, Serbia): <i>SDGs and WASH</i>• Dr. Marjeta Çela (Directory of Public Health and Health Education, Albania): <i>The role of health care structures in assessing environmental risks and the impact of drinking water and sanitation in the community</i>• Dr. Monica Isacu (Aquademica, Romania) & Prof. Mihaela Vasilescu (Ecological University Bucharest): <i>The Water Classroom and Education today</i>
14:35	Q&A, discussion & possibilities for further activities (WECF)

List of Panellists

Moderation:

Brixhilda Gurakuqi, Woman in Development, Albania

Sascha Gabizon, Women Engage for a Common Future International

Panellists:

Prof. Mihail Kochubovski - Institute for Public Health, North Macedonia

Dr. Andjelka Mihajlov - Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, Serbia

Dr. Marjeta Çela - Directory of Public Health and Health Education, Albania

Dr. Monica Isacu - Aquademica, Romania

Prof. Mihaela Vasilescu - Ecological University Bucharest, Romania

Please register [here](#).